

D1

storing the first license in the first set of playback devices in response to a command from the license management device;

storing the first license in first digital audio content; and

authorizing playback of the first digital audio content with the first set of playback devices.

D2

3. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

creating a second license having a second cardinality, the license created by the license management device;

transmitting, via a network connection, the second license to a second set of playback devices, wherein the second set of playback devices is determined based, at least in part, on the second cardinality, and further wherein at least one playback device belongs to the first set and to the second set;

storing the second license in the second set of playback device in response to one or more commands from the license management device;

storing the second license in second digital audio content;

authorizing playback of the second digital audio content with the second set of playback devices.

D3

11. (Four Times Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon sequences of instructions that when executed one or more electronic systems to:

D3

create a first license having a first cardinality, wherein the cardinality indicates the number of playback devices that can be authorized for playback of associated digital audio content, the license created by a license management device;

transmit, via a network connection, the first license to a first set of playback devices, wherein the first set of playback devices is less than or equal to the first cardinality;

store the first license in the first set of playback devices in response to a command from the license management device;

store the first license in first digital audio content; and

authorize playback of the first digital audio content with the first set of playback devices.

F

D4

13. (Twice Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 11 further comprising sequences of instructions that when executed cause the one or more electronic systems to:

create a second license having a second cardinality, the license created by the license management device;

transmit, via a network connection, the second license to a second set of playback devices, wherein the second set of playback devices is determined based, at least in part, on the second cardinality, and further wherein at least one playback device belongs to the first set and to the second set;

store the second license in the second set of playback device in response to one or more commands from the license management device;

D4

store the second license in second digital audio content;  
authorize playback of the second digital audio content with the second set of  
playback devices.

D5

21. (Three Times Amended) An apparatus for digital license management,  
the apparatus comprising:

means for creating a first license having a first cardinality, wherein the cardinality  
indicates the number of playback devices that can be authorized for playback of  
associated digital audio content, the license created by a license management device;

means for transmitting, via a network connection, the first license to a first set of  
playback devices, wherein the first set of playback devices is less than or equal to the first  
cardinality;

means for storing the first license in the first set of playback devices in response  
to a command from the license management device;

means for storing the first license in first digital audio content; and

means for authorizing playback of the first digital audio content with the first set  
of playback devices.

D6

23. (Twice Amended) The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising:

means for creating a second license having a second cardinality, the license  
created by the license management device;

means for transmitting, via a network connection, the second license to a second  
set of playback devices, wherein the second set of playback devices is determined based,

D6  
at least in part, on the second cardinality, and further wherein at least one playback device belongs to the first set and to the second set;

means for storing the second license in the second set of playback device in response to one or more commands from the license management device;

means for storing the second license in second digital audio content;

means for authorizing playback of the second digital audio content with the second set of playback devices.

D7  
24. (Twice Amended) A digital data signal embodied in a data communications medium shared among a plurality of network devices to provide digital audio programming, the digital data signal comprising license having a first cardinality, wherein the cardinality indicates the number of playback devices that can be authorized for playback of associated digital audio content, the license having been created by a license management device, wherein a set of playback devices receive the digital data signal in response to one or more commands issued by the license management device and authorize playback of digital audio data if the license included in the computer data signal matches at least one license stored in the digital audio data.